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Commission on Population and Development
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Item 2 of the provisional agenda
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Provisional agenda

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Annotations

1. Election of officers

Rule 15 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council stipulates that the Commission shall elect, from among the representatives of its members, a Chair, one or more Vice-Chairs and such other officers as may be required.

In accordance with its decision 2004/2, the Commission, immediately following the closure of its forty-third session, held the first meeting of its forty-fourth session for

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the sole purpose of electing the new Chair and other officers of the Commission. The following officers were elected: Chair: Brian Bowler (Malawi); Vice-Chairs: Christophe de Bassompierre (Belgium); Easton Williams (Jamaica); and Suljuk Mustansar Tarar (Pakistan). The election of the Vice-Chair from the Group of Eastern European States was deferred. The membership of the Commission at its forty-fourth session is provided in the annex.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Rule 7 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council requires that the Commission shall, at the beginning of each session, adopt the agenda for that session on the basis of the provisional agenda.

On the recommendation of the Commission at its forty-third session, the Council, in its decision 2010/238, approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-fourth session of the Commission.

At its thirtieth session,[1] the Commission decided to authorize its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis. At its thirty-ninth session, in its resolution 2006/1,[2] the Commission requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for its annual sessions. The Commission has before it the report of the Bureau on its intersessional meetings.

Documentation

Provisional agenda (E/CN.9/2011/1)

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings (E/CN.9/2011/2)

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of work of the session (E/CN.9/2011/L.1)

3. Actions in follow-up to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development

In its resolution 49/128, in which it endorsed the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development, the General Assembly decided that the Commission, as a functional commission assisting the Economic and Social Council, would monitor, review and assess the implementation of the Programme of Action of the Conference at the national, regional and international levels and advise the Council thereon.

In the terms of reference of the Commission,[3] which were endorsed by the Council in its resolution 1995/55, the Commission was called upon to adopt a topic-oriented and prioritized multi-year programme. That work programme would, inter alia, provide a framework for assessing the progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action. In its report on its twenty-eighth session, of which the

[1] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1997, Supplement No. 5* (E/1997/25), para. 52.

[2] Ibid., *2006, Supplement No. 5* (E/2006/25), chap. I.B.

[3] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 7* (E/1995/27), annex I, sect. I.A.

Council took note in its decision 1995/236, the Commission called for the preparation of annual reports on a selected topic of the Programme of Action.[4]

At its twenty-first special session, the General Assembly, in its resolution S-21/2, adopted the key actions for the further implementation of the Programme of Action.

In its decision 2009/101,[5] the Commission decided that the special theme for the forty-fourth session in 2011 should be "Fertility, reproductive health and development".

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on fertility, reproductive health and development (E/CN.9/2011/3)

Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on fertility, reproductive health and development (E/CN.9/2011/4)

Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (E/CN.9/2011/5)

4. General debate on national experience in population matters: fertility, reproductive health and development

The Commission has concluded that it would be useful to make provision in its agenda for a general debate on population matters relating to the theme of the Commission session. Under this item, Governments would report on national experience related to meeting the goals and objectives on fertility, reproductive health and development set out in the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and would exchange views on ways to accelerate their achievement.

5. General debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development in the light of its twentieth anniversary

The General Assembly, by its resolution 65/234 on follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014, decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key Actions for its further implementation beyond 2014 and ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives, and to convene a special session during the sixty-ninth session of the General Assembly in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support for actions required for the full achievement of its goals and objectives.

In the same resolution, the General Assembly further decided that the Commission, which is scheduled to hold, at its forty-fourth session, a general debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action in the light of the twentieth anniversary of the Conference, should convene an interactive discussion during its forty-seventh session on the assessment of the status of implementation of the

[4] Ibid., sect. III.

[5] Ibid., *2009, Supplement No. 5* (E/2009/25), chap. I.B.

Programme of Action; called upon the United Nations Population Fund, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with all relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as institutions and experts, to undertake an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the basis of the highest-quality data and analysis of the state of population and development and taking into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues; and requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on this review to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session.

In view of the decisions taken and the guidance provided by the General Assembly, and noting the stress that the General Assembly placed on the importance of protecting the achievements of the International Conference on Population and Development, responding to new challenges relevant to population and development and to the changing development environment, and reinforcing the integration of the population and development agenda in global processes related to development, the Bureau suggested that the general debate under item 5 focus on how to buttress the achievements of the Conference, whose overall theme was the interrelationship of population, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, as well as on ways of ensuring that the population and development agenda would be integrated into key global processes related to development, in particular the forthcoming United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, to be held in 2012. With that objective in mind, the Bureau decided to invite to launch the debate high-level officials of United Nations entities carrying out activities relevant to the integration of the population and development agenda into global processes.

6. General debate on the contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2011

At its forty-first session,[6] the Commission heard an address by the President of the Economic and Social Council on the various ways in which the Commission might contribute to the new mandates of the Council, in particular the annual ministerial review. In response, the Commission added this item to its annual agenda. At its forty-fourth session, the Commission will discuss the contributions it could make to the annual ministerial review that the Council will conduct in 2011 on the theme "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education". The Bureau of the Commission decided to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to address the Commission under this item in order to launch a discussion on the contribution of population and development issues to the implementation of the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education.

7. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population

At its twenty-eighth session, the Commission suggested that the work programme in the field of population should continue, inter alia, to give high priority to the monitoring of population trends and policies and include the biennial preparation of estimates and projections of global, national, urban, rural and city populations; the conduct of studies on population and related development policies; the preparation

[6] Ibid., *2008, Supplement No. 5* (E/2008/25), chap. V.

of studies on interactions of population change with other development processes; the conduct of analyses of mortality; contribution to and coordination of in-depth studies on fertility, nuptiality and reproductive rights and health, including family planning; the conduct of studies to improve the understanding of the causes and consequences of internal migration and international migration; increasing public awareness of and information exchange on population and development issues; making the necessary arrangements for coordinating the review and appraisal of the Programme of Action; and the provision of technical cooperation support to developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, and, on a temporary basis, to countries with economies in transition in the light of the economic and social problems that those countries faced at that time.[7]

The Commission reaffirmed the content of the work programme at its twenty-ninth session (Commission resolution 1996/1).[8]

At its thirtieth session, the Commission stressed the importance of continuing the basic work of the Population Division of the Secretariat on the crucial underpinnings of population estimates and projections; basic population trends and issues, including fertility, mortality, migration and patterns of rural and urban population change; the evolution of population policies; and understanding of the links between population and development (Commission resolution 1997/3).[9]

At its thirty-seventh session, the Commission reaffirmed the importance of the work of the Population Division in providing the United Nations system and the international community with comprehensive and scientifically sound inputs for the analysis of progress made in achieving the goals and objectives on population and development set in the outcomes of major United Nations summits and conferences, especially the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, the key actions for its further implementation and the Declaration of Commitment on HIV/AIDS (Commission resolution 2004/1).[10]

At the same session, the Commission further emphasized that the Population Division should continue basic work on population estimates and projections; patterns of rural and urban population change; the analysis of international migration; the implications of the changing age structure of the population for development; the increasing diversity of fertility and mortality levels and trends; the interrelations among population, resources, the environment and development; and the evolution of population policies, applying a gender perspective in this regard (Commission resolution 2004/1).[10]

The Economic and Social Council, in its resolution 1996/2, proposed that main demographic trends be covered biennially, starting in 1997, in a concise report prepared by the Population Division, to be discussed under the agenda item concerning the work programme of the Division.

As indicated in the proposed strategic framework for the period 2012-2013,[11] the objective of the subprogramme on population is to strengthen the international community's capacity to effectively address current and emerging population issues

[7] Ibid., *1995, Supplement No. 7* (E/1995/27), annex II.
[8] Ibid., *1996, Supplement No. 5* (E/1996/25), chap. I.C.
[9] Ibid., *1997, Supplement No. 5* (E/1997/25), chap. I.C.
[10] Ibid., *2004, Supplement No. 5* (E/2004/25), chap. I.B.
[11] A/65/6 (Prog. 7).

and to integrate the population dimensions into the development agenda at the national and international levels. In paragraph 7.12 of the strategic framework, the Population Division was designated as the entity responsible for the subprogramme and the Division was mandated to achieve that objective by: (a) providing substantive support to United Nations bodies, especially to the Commission, and assessing progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the achievement of the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals; (b) facilitating the discussion of key or emerging population issues by experts or Government representatives; (c) preparing comprehensive studies on population issues and population trends relating to fertility, mortality, international and internal migration, HIV/AIDS, urbanization, population growth, population ageing, population prospects, population policy and population in relation to development; (d) disseminating population information and policy-relevant findings in the area of population, in particular through the Population Division websites; and (e) building capacity to address population issues at the national level through workshops or the dissemination of technical material, such as manuals and software.

The Commission has before it for consideration the draft programme of work of the Population Division for the biennium 2012-2013. The Commission is invited to review the draft and provide its comments thereon.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends (E/CN.9/2011/6)

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2010 (E/CN.9/2011/7)

Draft programme of work of the Population Division, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, for the biennium 2012-2013 (E/CN.9/2011/CRP.1)

8. Provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission

In accordance with rule 9 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission will have before it the draft provisional agenda for its forty-fifth session, together with an indication of the documents to be submitted under each item and the legislative authority for their preparation, in order to enable the Commission to consider those documents from the point of view of their contribution to the work of the Commission and their urgency and relevance in the light of the current situation.

The attention of the Commission is drawn to Council resolutions 1979/41 and 1981/83 on the control and limitation of documentation. In addition, the Commission is reminded that the Council, in paragraph 1 (j) of its resolution 1982/50 on the revitalization of the Council, urged all its subsidiary bodies to exercise the utmost restraint in making requests of the Secretary-General for new reports and studies and to implement fully the provisions of the decisions of the Council and of the General Assembly with respect to the control and limitation of documentation.

The attention of the Commission is also drawn to paragraph 4 of the annex to Council resolution 1982/50, in which the Secretary-General recommended that: (a) the documentation and programme of work of the subsidiary bodies of the

Council and the Assembly be streamlined in order to enable the subsidiary bodies to perform effectively the functions entrusted to them; (b) the Council and the Assembly continue to review the provisional agendas for their subsidiary bodies, together with the list of requested documentation, in order, inter alia, to establish greater consistency in the overall request for documentation and its orderly consideration at the intergovernmental level, taking fully into account the medium-term plan and the programme budget; and (c) in doing so, the Council and the Assembly also take into account the need for the consolidation of items and documentation for their subsidiary machinery.

Furthermore, in its resolution 1981/83, the Council instructed its subsidiary bodies to take urgent measures to streamline their agendas and programmes of work and to bring about a substantial reduction in their requests for documents, bearing in mind the duration and the cycles of their meetings, and to report to the Council on measures adopted, taking strictly into account the guidelines set forth in the pertinent resolutions and decisions of the Council and the Assembly.

In decision 1983/163, the Council requested the Secretary-General: (a) to bring to the attention of intergovernmental and expert bodies, before decisions were adopted, any request for documentation that exceeded the ability of the Secretariat to prepare and process on time and within its approved resources; and (b) to draw the attention of intergovernmental bodies to areas where duplication of documentation was likely to occur and/or where opportunities for integrating or consolidating documents that dealt with related or similar themes might exist, with a view to rationalizing documentation.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the provisional agenda for the forty-fifth session of the Commission (E/CN.9/2011/L.2)

9. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-fourth session

In accordance with rule 37 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, the Commission shall submit a report to the Council on the work of each session.

Annex

Membership of the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-fourth session (2011)

(47 members; four-year term)

	Term expires at close of session in the year
Angola	2014
Bangladesh	2013
Belarus	2013
Belgium	2013
Benin	2011
Brazil	2013
China	2014
Colombia	2012
Côte d'Ivoire	2013
Croatia	2012
Cuba	2013
Democratic Republic of the Congo	2013
Equatorial Guinea	2011
Finland	2012
Germany	2013
Ghana	2014
Grenada	2011
Guatemala	2014
Haiti	2013
Honduras	2011
Hungary	2014
India	2014
Indonesia	2013
Iran (Islamic Republic of)	2011
Israel	2013

	Term expires at close of session in the year
Jamaica	2014
Japan	2012
Kazakhstan	2012
Kenya	2012
Luxembourg	2014
Malawi	2014
Malaysia	2014
Netherlands	2012
Pakistan	2013
Philippines	2014
Poland	2011
Russian Federation	2014
Rwanda	2013
Saint Lucia	2014
Senegal	2014
Spain	2011
Sri Lanka	2011
Switzerland	2013
Tunisia	2012
Uganda	2012
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2014
United States of America	2014